

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 and amend claims 1 and 18 as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1. (Amended) A medical device, for use in removing particles from a vascular lumen within the body for treatment of cardiovascular disease, comprising:

~~means for removing particles from a lumen within the body comprising:~~

an outer, hollow tube having a tube distal end, the tube adapted for insertion into a vascular lumen;

a self-expanding porous braided structure having a distal part and a proximal part;

means, housed within the tube and having a distal end positioned distally of the tube distal end, for moving the braided structure from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by moving at least one of the tube and moving means distal ends towards the other; and

the porous braided structure comprising: ~~means for inhibiting~~

a porous proximal side and a porous distal side;

the distal side having smaller pores than the proximal side to inhibit particles from moving completely through the braided structure when in the expanded condition.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The device as in claim 1 further comprising a porous membrane adjacent to the braided structure, the membrane having smaller pores than the braided structure.

6. (Original) The device as in claim 5 wherein said porous membrane is an elastic membrane.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A medical device comprising:

means for removing particles from a lumen within the body comprising:

an outer, hollow tube having a tube distal end;

a porous braided structure having a distal part and a proximal part;

means, housed within the tube and having a distal end positioned distally of the tube distal end, for moving the braided structure from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by moving at least one of the tube and moving means distal ends towards the other;

the braided structure being a temperature-sensitive shape memory material so that the braided structure is also movable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by heating the temperature-sensitive braided material; and

the braided structure comprising means for inhibiting particles from moving completely through the braided structure when in the expanded condition.

10. (Withdrawn) A medical device comprising:

means for removing particles from a lumen within the body comprising:

an outer, hollow tube having a tube distal end;

a porous braided structure having a porous proximal side, a porous distal side, a distal part and a proximal part;

means, housed within the tube and having a distal end positioned distally of the tube distal end, for moving the braided structure from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by moving at least one of the tube and moving means distal ends towards the other;

the braided structure being a temperature-sensitive shape memory material so that the braided structure is also movable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by heating the temperature-sensitive braided material;

a porous elastic membrane in contact with the porous distal side of the braided structure, the membrane having smaller pores than the braided structure; and

the braided structure and porous membrane therewith adapted to inhibit particles from moving completely through the braided structure when in the expanded condition.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for removing particulates from a body lumen comprising:

placing a filter device at a chosen position within a body lumen;

fully occluding the body lumen at the chosen position by expanding a braided structure at the chosen position;

removing particulates from a portion of the body lumen on one side of the chosen position by introducing liquid into and removing liquid from said portion;

collapsing the braided structure; and

removing the filter device from the body lumen.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the placing step is a percutaneous placing step.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a braided structure mounted to first and second the elongate members.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a fully sealed braided structure.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a partially sealed braided structure.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a porous braided structure.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the removing step is carried out so that the portion is proximal of the braided structure.

18. (Amended) A method for forming an occlusion system within a vascular lumen of a body to trap particles for treatment of cardiovascular disease comprising the following steps:

positioning the distal portion of a medical device at a target site within a vascular lumen of a body, the medical device comprising:

an outer, hollow tube having a tube distal end;

an inner member housed within the tube and having an inner member distal end positioned distally of the tube distal end; and

a self-expanding porous braided structure having a distal part secured to the inner member distal end and a proximal part secured to the tube distal end, the distal part having smaller pores than the proximal part to inhibit particles from moving completely through the braided structure when in the expanded condition;

moving the braided structure from a contracted condition to an expanded condition by moving the tube and inner member distal ends toward one another thereby at least substantially obstructing the lumen at the target site, the braided structure adapted to inhibit particles from moving completely through the braided structure when in the expanded condition.

19. (Withdrawn) A vascular prosthesis comprising:
a braided body;
said braided body having a variable porosity to allow for a variable obstruction to flow through the braided body according to the location along the braided body.

20. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the body is a balloon-expandable body.

21. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the body is a self-expanding body.

22. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the body is a self-expanding body and is also expandable to a desired size by an inflatable balloon.

23. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the material used to make the body is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, shape memory nickel-titanium alloy, wool, nylon, polyethylene, polyester, stainless steel alloy, titanium and PTFE.

24. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the body is coated with a textile fabric.

25. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 further comprising a drug associated with the body.

26. (Withdrawn) The prosthesis of claim 19 wherein said body comprises temporary energy dispersal means for helping prevent restenosis.